

**ANNEX AA**

**TORNADO**

**I. Purpose**

To describe city operations in the event of a tornado watches or warnings.

**II. Definitions**

**Tornado Watch** – the first alerting message from the weather service to the public which specifies an area and a period of time during which tornado probabilities are expected to be dangerously high. Residents are urged to be cautious and to watch for developing storms. Residents are also urged to stay close to place of shelter and to monitors changing conditions through the radio, television or weather alert radios.

**Tornado Warning** – issued by the National Weather Service when a tornado has actually been sighted in the area or detected by radar. Residents are urged to take shelter immediately.

**III. Standard Operating Procedures for Tornado Watch**

The National Weather Service will issue tornado watches for Polk County and the Ankeny area. The Polk County Emergency Management Agency will distribute the warning through established channels. The fire department's on-duty command officer will be informed of the watch. The Chief of Police and the Fire Chief will be officially notified of this watch and will distribute the information to the respective department supervisors.

**IV. Standard Operating Procedures for Tornado Warning**

If tornadic activity is observed in any nearby area (in example southern Polk, Story, Dallas, Madison, Warren, or Jasper Counties), the Police Chief, Fire Chief and City Manager shall be notified. The City Manager will in turn notify the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem, the Assistant City Managers and will initiate the City Hall phone notification tree.

The Director of Emergency Management will report to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to monitor storm progress and to provide updates as needed to the City Manager and other critical staff functions.

When information is received that a tornado has been officially sighted (visually or by radar) in Polk County and the Ankeny area, the outdoor warning system will be activated by the Polk County Communications Center. All police patrol units will attempt to warn as many people as possible that are observed in outdoor areas with

their P.A. systems in operation.

### **Storm Warning Sirens**

The outdoor emergency warning system will be activated under the following conditions:

- ❑ The outdoor warning system is designed only to inform those who are outside in the open areas, of a tornado warning issued for the area. The system is not designed to warn residents within the confines of a residential, commercial, educational or other occupancy.
- ❑ The warning system is in place to warn residents of tornados. The system will be activated once per warning period as determined by the National Weather Service (NWS).
- ❑ The outdoor warning sirens are activated by the dispatch consol of the Polk County Communications Center.
- ❑ In the event of an actual sighting of a tornado in the area, observed prior to a warning issued by the NWS, law enforcement, fire service or emergency management agency supervisors can request that the sirens be activated.
- ❑ The system is not activated for thunderstorms, other severe weather conditions or perceived imminent hazards after the initial tornado warning activation has been made.
- ❑ The warning sirens will not be activated to signal an “all clear.”
- ❑ In the event that a previously issued tornado warning expires, and the NWS issues a fresh tornado warning for the area, the warning system will be activated again in response to the new warning.

### **V. Storm Aftermath**

All Ankeny Fire Department personnel will report to quarters to respond as directed by the on-duty officer or command staff.

All Ankeny Police Department will report as soon as possible after the storm has subsided in full uniform for ease of identification.

In the event of a confirmed touchdown or significant damage from winds and other

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associated weather events, the EOC will be activated with a 1<sup>st</sup> Tier Activation.

The primary immediate objective of law enforcement officers will be to secure the City and keep unauthorized personnel out of the affected area; keep as many routes open into the affected areas for rescue units and emergency equipment; direct all volunteers and equipment to the proper area for orderly assemblage and dispatching. All traffic into the City should be stopped, except bonafide residents and emergency vehicles.

The foremost police concern will be to maintain order and effect the orderly ingress and egress of emergency personnel and equipment, keeping in mind that looting and criminal activities are a prime concern.

Perimeter posts will be taken over by outside law agencies as soon as possible, relieving Ankeny police personnel to assist on internal affairs. All posts being relieved will contact the Command Post for immediate re-assignment. Personnel must keep in mind their physical presence in uniform on the street is in itself a deterrent to crime and a comforting sight to the aggrieved.

## **VI. Mutual Aid Agreements**

During disaster operations where existing local fire resources are exceeded, assistance will be requested from neighboring communities/community subdivisions/entities in which mutual aid agreements have been established through the Tiered Emergency Assets Management System (TEAMS) in Polk County. TEAMS will be coordinated and dispatched through the Polk County Sheriff's Office. On request, City of Ankeny resources may be sent to assist other jurisdictions within Polk County.

## **VII. Authentication**

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Date

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Ankeny Fire Chief

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**APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Tornado Watch/Warning Notification List

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### **Appendix A - Tornado Watch/Warning Notification List**

- Chief of Police
- Fire Chief
- Superintendent of Schools

#### **Tornado Warning Notification List**

- City Manager (or designee)\*
- Fire Chief (or designee)
- Chief of Police (or designee)
- Mayor (or Mayor Pro Tem)
- Assistant City Managers
- Superintendent of Schools

\*The City Manager will initiate the City Hall Telephone Notification Tree